

STRANGER THINGS

#307

THE BITE

With time running out - and an assassin close behind - Hopper's crew races back to Hawkins, where El and the kids are preparing for war.

There's distorted cheering.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Hawkins residence roam the grounds and ride the rides, yelling and cheering. A trio of girls slide down the Fun Slide, laughing. A man on stilts dressed as Uncle Sam waves around a large US flag. A vendor hands two boys trays of food. Their mother smiles as the boys take them.

VENDOR: One for each of you.

WOMAN: Thanks.

VENDOR: Have fun.

The family walks away. A trio of young girls run towards the Fun House. Teenagers play at the shooting range in sideshow alley. An attendant hands a stuffed toy to a teenage boy. The boy's father looks excited.

ATTENDANT: There you go.

MAN: Yeah!

EXT. FUN FAIR – MAIN STAGE – NIGHT

The Hawkins High Marching Band plays The Washington Post March. Kline walks onto the stage and heads to stand behind the lectern in the center, waving. He wears makeup over his cuts to hide them. The crowd gathered in front of the main stage cheers. Kline makes a motion and the band stops playing.

KLINE: Now, doesn't that just lift your spirits?

The crowd cheers.

KLINE (CONT'D): Let's give another big hand for the Hawkins High Marching Band!

The crowd cheers. Kline claps, turning around to look at the band before turning back.

KLINE (CONT'D): I hope you're all having a good time tonight.

The crowd cheers.

KLINE (CONT'D): Are you having a good time?

The crowd cheers.

KLINE (CONT'D): I can't hear you! Are you having a good time?

The crowd cheers louder. Kline chuckles.

KLINE (CONT'D): I want you to know that we spared no expense to provide you with the very best entertainment that money can buy!

EXT. FUN FAIR – FERRIS WHEEL – NIGHT

Ted, Karen, and Holly sit in a gondola. Ted looks nervous.

WORKER: Keep your arms inside.

The worker pulls the bar across.

KAREN: Uh-oh! Dad can't get out now.

TED: Why do you two enjoy torturing me?

KAREN: Because it's fun.

HOLLY: Yeah, Dad, cause it's fun!

The worker pulls the lever, and the wheel starts moving, sending the gondola backwards.

KAREN: Oh, here we go.

Ted groans. The gondola moves a little faster.

TED: Oh, boy. Hoo!

EXT. FUN FAIR – MAIN STAGE – NIGHT

KLINE: But enough of me blabbering. Who here wants to see some fireworks?

The crowd cheers.

KLINE (CONT'D): Come on, now, you can do better than that. Who here wants to see some fireworks?

The crowd cheers louder. The band starts to play Semper Fidelis.

EXT. FUN FAIR – FERRIS WHEEL – NIGHT

Ted, Karen, and Holly reach the top, the ride stopping. Karen sighs.

TED: Uh, why are we stopping?

KAREN: Because I slipped Jimmy a five.

TED: You what?

KAREN: Come on, these are the best seats in the house.

HOLLY: The best seats in the house.

The fireworks start popping, making them jump and look up at the sky.

TED: Oh!

EXT. FUN FAIR – MAIN STAGE – NIGHT

The crowd cheers, standing up as they look at the sky.

KLINE: Happy Fourth of July!

The crowd cheers. More fireworks go off. Kline walks down the stairs onto the grass, looking up at the sky and clapping.

KAREN (O.S.): Whoa!

EXT. FUN FAIR – FERRIS WHEEL – NIGHT

Karen laughs.

KAREN (CONT'D): That was pretty, wasn't it?

HOLLY: Yeah.

KAREN: Yeah.

Holly's eyes drift away from the fireworks and down to the woods, her smile fading. She watches as the tops of a few trees move as if pushed.

HOLLY: Mum, the trees.

KAREN: What, baby?

HOLLY: The trees are moving.

KAREN: Why are you looking at the trees, baby? The fireworks. Look at the fireworks!

Holly looks up at the fireworks, but her smile doesn't come back. The camera moves over the trio and towards the trees. Karen laughs.

KAREN (O.S.): That was a big one, wasn't it?

The camera follows the trees as they move quicker. A few fall over. A creature snarls.

Cut to black.

MAIN TITLES.

CHAPTER SEVEN: THE BITE.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Fireworks explode in the sky. Faint cheering can be heard. The marching bands plays in the distance. The camera moves away from the sky and towards the cabin.

ELEVEN (O.S.): He said he was building something.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Eleven, Max, and Will sit on the couch. Jonathan sits on the armchair. Nancy leans on the wood ladder beside it. Lucas paces behind the couch. Mike sits in front of the TV.

ELEVEN (CONT'D): That it was all for me.

MAX: Building something...is he talking about the flayed?

NANCY: He must be.

LUCAS: So he's building an army, just like we thought.

MIKE: Yeah, but he's not building this army to spread.

WILL: He's building it to stop Eleven.

MIKE: Last year, El closed the Gate on him. I have a feeling that really pissed him off.

LUCAS: Like, royally.

MIKE: And the Mind Flayer now knows that she's the only thing that can stop him. But if she gets out of the way-

LUCAS: Game over.

ELEVEN: He also said he was gonna kill all of you.

Everyone looks a little put off by that.

MAX: Yeah, well, that's nice.

There's a faint screeching noise. Nancy hears it, walking over to the window behind the TV. She stands back a bit, looking at the woods outside. There's another faint screeching noise.

NANCY: Do you guys hear that?

The others listen. The sound doesn't come again.

JONATHAN: It's just the fireworks.

NANCY: Billy...

Nancy turns around to look at Eleven.

NANCY (CONT'D): When he told you this, it was here, in this room?

Eleven nods. Nancy looks to the door. There's a distant thudding noise. Mike turns around. The group looks nervous. Will slowly reaches up and touches the back of his neck.

WILL: He knows we're here.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Jonathan opens the front door and walks out, followed by the others. They walk towards the dirt road, looking up to the distant hill. They watch in horror as the Spider Monster crests the hill, knocking down trees. It walks towards them. Eleven looks scared.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

An alarm blares. A cart speeds down the hallway towards the elevator.

INT. RUSSIAN CART

Dustin sits in the driver's seat, going as fast as he can. Erica sits in the passenger seat. Robin and Steve ride in the back. They hit a slight bump, making Steve grab the partition that separates the front from the back.

STEVE: (slurring) Jesus, slow down!

ROBIN: (slurring) Yeah, what is this, like, the Indy 500?

STEVE: It's the Indy 300.

ROBIN: No, dingus, it's 500!

Steve holds up three fingers.

STEVE: It's 300!

ROBIN: Let's say a million.

They both start laughing loudly.

ERICA: What is wrong with them?

DUSTIN: I don't know.

They reach the end of the hallway near the elevator. Dustin doesn't slow down.

ERICA: Dustin, watch out!

DUSTIN: Shit!

Dustin veers the cart and crashes into a group of barrels. Steve and Robin are thrown backwards into the partition, hitting their heads.

STEVE: Oh!

Steve and Robin both groan, grabbing their heads. Dustin and Erica turn to look at Steve and Robin through the partition.

DUSTIN: You guys all right back there?

Steve and Robin groan in response. Erica looks at Dustin with concern.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): They're fine.

Dustin and Erica slide out of their seats.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – HALLWAY

Dustin and Erica open the back of the cart.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Come on. We gotta go, now.

ERICA: Come on!

DUSTIN: Let's go!

Steve and Robin slowly push themselves to get out of the cart.

ERICA: Get out!

Dustin grabs Steve and pulls him out.

STEVE: Ow!

Steve tumbles towards the ground, putting his hands out to stop himself. Dustin walks towards the elevator's key card reader.

STEVE (CONT'D): We're coming!

DUSTIN: Here goes nothing.

STEVE (O.S.): This sucks!

Dustin puts the key card into the reader. It beeps.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ELEVATOR SHAFT

The elevator rises.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – RUSSIAN BASE – ELEVATOR

Steve rides a trolley like a surfboard while Robin stands behind it, holding the bar. They cheer and laugh giddily. Dustin and Erica just watch.

ROBIN: Hey! You look like you're surfing!

STEVE: Surfing! Yeah! Whoa!

ERICA: They seem drunk.

DUSTIN: Why would they be drunk?

STEVE: I'm a natural! Check it out!

Steve moves forward while Robin pulls the trolley back, sending Steve flying to the floor and into some boxes.

STEVE (CONT'D): Whoa!

Robin laughs, moving her arms to point at him. Steve rolls over, his head awkwardly pushed against the box.

ROBIN: Wipeout!

Steve and Robin both laugh. Dustin kneels beside Steve and puts his hand against the boy's forehead.

DUSTIN: He's burning up.

STEVE: You're burning up.

Robin sits down at the end of the trolley. Dustin pulls on the eyelids of Steve's unbruised eye. Steve futilely tries to push him off.

DUSTIN: One sec, one sec. Steve.

STEVE: God, no.

DUSTIN: Steve.

STEVE: Ow!

Dustin lets go of Steve's eye and looks at Erica.

DUSTIN: His pupils are super dilated.

ERICA: Maybe he's drugged.

Dustin turns back to Steve. Steve boops his nose.

STEVE: Ugh. Boop!

Dustin sighs, then gently slaps Steve's face.

DUSTIN: Steve, are you drugged?

STEVE: How many times, Dad? I don't do drugs. It's only marijuana.

Steve touches Dustin's face again.

DUSTIN: This isn't funny, okay? I need to know what they did to you.

Steve giggles, using his ascot to rub his nose.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Are you gonna die on us?

Steve hits Dustin's nose.

STEVE: Boop.

ROBIN: We all die, my strange little child friend.

Dustin looks at Robin.

ROBIN (CONT'D): It's just a matter of how...and when.

Dustin doesn't know what to say. He looks at Steve.

DUSTIN: They're gonna be looking for us up there, so I need you to tell me where you parked your car.

STEVE: Oh, can we make a pit stop at the food court?

ROBIN: I would kill for a hot dog on a stick.

STEVE: Ooh!

DUSTIN: All right. Yeah, food. Yes, you can have as much food as you want, but only if you tell me where your car is parked.

STEVE: Uh-oh.

DUSTIN: Uh-oh?

STEVE: The car's off the board.

DUSTIN: What?

STEVE: They took the keys.

Steve turns out his pockets to show that they're empty.

STEVE (CONT'D): The Russians, they took the keys.

Robin laughs.

STEVE (CONT'D): Like, forever ago.

Steve and Robin laugh.

STEVE (CONT'D): That's a bummer, right?

Robin laughs. Dustin looks at Erica, looking nervous. She sighs.

EXT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

Dustin and Erica open the doors and head towards the gate, followed by Steve and Robin.

STEVE and ROBIN (IN UNISON): Oh!

Robin breathes in deeply.

ROBIN: Oh, my God, that tastes so good. Ah!

Robin sticks her tongue out.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Steve, can you taste the air?

Steve sticks his tongue out.

STEVE: I taste it! I taste it!

Robin laughs. Dustin and Erica stop walking when they see the gate open and two Russian guards start towards them.

GUARD: Stop!

Dustin quickly grabs Erica's arm.

DUSTIN: Shit! Come on! Come on!

Dustin and Erica yell at Steve and Robin as they try to pull them towards the back door of the mall. The guards run towards them.

GUARD: (in Russian) Stop right there!

Dustin and Erica push Steve and Robin towards the door.

ROBIN: Okay, okay, okay!

STEVE: Why are we running?

Steve opens the door and walks in. Robin puts her arms up as if on a rollercoaster as she walks through the door.

ROBIN: Woo!

Erica pushes Robin in faster. Robin laughs. Dustin quickly shuts the door behind them.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – SHED – NIGHT

Nancy opens the door and turns the light on. She looks around and catches sight of a gun, walking over to pick it up. She cocks it.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

Jonathan pulls an axe out of a tree stump.

INT. HOPPER'S CABIN – LOUNGE ROOM – NIGHT

Doors and windows have been barricaded. Mike and Eleven work together to lift a bench and press it against a window. Jonathan opens the door and he and Nancy walk in.

MIKE: Yeah. That's good like that.

Max puts a folded chair against a window. Will and Lucas work together to push a bookshelf against another window, before Lucas walks over and shuts the door to Eleven's room. Nancy and Jonathan work together to lift the couch and push it to stand on one end, leaning in front of the front door. Nancy walks over to the coffee table and picks up the gun.

NANCY: Hey, get away from the windows.

The group move to stand in a circle in the middle of the room. They look around, nervous. A lamp creaks as it shakes slightly. There's a rumbling. The lamp shakes. The dishes shake. The lights begin to flicker.

WILL: It's close.

Dust shakes from some of the slats in the roof. The tree branches outside rustle. The lights continue to flicker. A mug falls off a hook and hits the ground, shattering. The rumbling suddenly stops.

MAX: Where'd it go?

The group looks around, nervous. It's silent. A tendril suddenly bursts through the wall, making everyone gasp and scatter. It shrieks as it makes its way into the cabin, seemingly heading straight for Eleven. Jonathan grunts as he brings an axe down on the tendril, making it shriek. He pulls the axe out and brings it back down, making the tendril shriek again. Jonathan pulls the axe out again but is knocked into a bookshelf by the tendril before he can bring it back down. Jonathan groans, the axe clattering to the ground out of reach. The tendril snakes towards him, shrieking, about to latch onto his face. Nancy shoots at it, pulling the tendril's attention away from Jonathan and onto her. It shrieks as it tries to move towards her but is pushed back each time she shoots. Nancy tries to shoot again but realises the gun is empty, backing away until her back hits the wall. The tendril shrieks as it moves towards her, about to latch onto her face, when it is stopped in its tracks. It wails and shrieks in pain as it tries to get at Nancy but is pulled away by Eleven using her powers. The tendril lets out strange noises, shrieking in pain, before Eleven rotates her hand and rips its 'head' off. The 'head' shrieks and crawls away as the rest of the tendril snakes back outside, making Max yelp as it moves past her.

MAX (CONT'D): Holy shit.

Another tendril bursts through the wall, heading towards Eleven, but is stopped in its tracks when she puts her hand up to stop it. Another tendril bursts through another wall and heads towards her but is also stopped in its tracks. Eleven pants, looking between the two tendrils on either side of her. The tendrils shriek as they try to get to her. Eleven's breathing quickens before she yells, ripping the 'heads' off. She pants as the tendrils snake back outside. A tendril bursts through the roof, latching onto Eleven's shin from behind. She's knocked off her feet as it pulls, close to getting her out of the cabin before Mike grabs Eleven's arms and starts pulling her back.

MIKE: EI!

Eleven screams in pain as the tendril pulls on her leg. Jonathan joins in helping Mike pull her back into the cabin.

MIKE (CONT'D): EI!

Max joins in helping pull Eleven back in, followed by Will. Nancy looks at the hole in the ceiling, realising that the Spider Monster is pulling on Eleven using its tongue. She reloads the shotgun as quickly as she can.

MIKE (CONT'D): Pull!

JONATHAN: Nancy, shoot it!

Eleven screams in pain. Nancy aims at the Spider Monster and fires, hitting it in the face and making it shriek. She shoots it again, and again.

MAX: Come on! Lucas!

Lucas catches sight of the axe and runs for it. Nancy continues to fire at the Spider Monster. Lucas jumps onto a stool, bringing the axe down on the tendril with a yell. The Spider Monster shrieks. Lucas pulls the axe out and brings it down again, followed by another shot from Nancy. The Spider Monster roars. Nancy shoots again. Eleven screams. The kids pull on Eleven but are slowly losing the battle as their feet skid on the floor. Lucas pulls the axe out and brings it down again, followed by a shot from Nancy.

MAX (CONT'D): Pull!

Nancy fires again. Lucas brings the axe down with a yell, succeeding in severing the tendril. The kids are thrown onto their backs from their momentum, with Eleven landing on Mike. The Spider Monster roars. Eleven looks weak.

MIKE: El! El, are you okay?

Eleven weakly nods. The Spider Monster roars. Mike realises that the tendril's 'head' is still connected to Eleven's shin, moving and shrieking. He sits up and kneels beside her leg, grabbing hold of the 'head' and pulling. Eleven screams in pain. Mike rips the 'head' off Eleven's shin, throwing it away. It crawls under the sheet into Hopper's room, chittering. The group turn their attention back to the Spider Monster, which is still looking at them through the hole in the roof. Eleven pants heavily, pulling herself to her feet. She takes a few steps, blood running down her leg. The Spider Monster roars. Eleven puts her hands up, yelling. The Spider Monster is thrown back slightly. Jonathan moves to cover Will and Mike behind him. Eleven yells, slowly splitting the Spider Monster in two with her powers. It lets out a pained screech. She yells and throws her arms to her side, splitting its head in two. There's distant roaring, and Max grabs Eleven as she starts to collapse.

NANCY: Go, go, go!

JONATHAN: Come on, come on, go!

Jonathan jumps up and moves towards the door. Mike grabs the other side of Eleven, with him and Max helping Eleven walk.

NANCY: Go!

JONATHAN: Hurry up! Come on!

Jonathan grabs the couch from in front of the door and throws it to the ground.

MIKE: Everybody out!

Jonathan opens the door.

JONATHAN: Go!

NANCY: Go! Come on, come on!

Mike and Max help Eleven out the door, followed by Will and Lucas.

EXT. HOPPER'S CABIN – FRONT YARD – NIGHT

The group runs towards the Wheeler car, pushed on by the distant sounds of roaring.

JONATHAN: Go, go, go, go, go, go, go!

LUCAS: Come on!

NANCY: Come on, come on, come on!

Nancy runs around to the driver's side.

LUCAS: Come on! Come on!

INT. WHEELER CAR

Lucas opens the back door, letting the others in before jumping in himself. Jonathan hops into the passenger side. The Spider Monster shrieks.

JONATHAN: Get in. Right here.

Eleven wails in pain.

MIKE: Drive! Drive!

Nancy starts the engine and takes off. The Spider Monster pushes off the cabin as it goes, its split head swinging as it moves.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

The two guards make their way down it, looking out for the kids.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BACK CORRIDOR – NIGHT

Erica and Dustin pull Steve and Robin along, walking quickly. The older pair are still pretty out of it, Steve more so than Robin.

STEVE: Whoa!

ERICA: Where are we going?

DUSTIN: Just trust me.

Steve laughs.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – HALLWAY – NIGHT

Dustin opens the door and checks for people.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): All clear.

Dustin walks out of the corridor and into the hallway, snaking his way around to a cinema. Erica, Robin, and Steve follow, with Steve grabbing a box of popcorn from a bin as he walks past, stuffing some in his mouth.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – CINEMA – NIGHT

Dustin opens the back doors to find a dark theatre, with the audience inside watching the start of *Back to the Future*.

MARTY MCFLY (ON SCREEN): Doc!

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): What did I tell you?! Eighty-eight miles per hour!

DUSTIN: Come on.

Dustin sneaks towards the front of the cinema, followed by the others.

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): The temporal displacement occurred exactly 1:20...

Dustin points to two seats at the very end of the front row before pointing to Steve and Robin.

DUSTIN: You two, sit.

ROBIN: No, no, no! These seats are too close!

Steve and Robin sit in the seats anyway.

STEVE: Dude, these seats blow.

DUSTIN: Then don't watch the movie.

ROBIN: We wanna watch it.

DUSTIN: Then watch it!

A man in a seat behind them leans forward.

MAN: Shh!

ROBIN: Shh!

The man looks at Robin strangely as he leans back into his seat.

DUSTIN: Sorry. Whatever you do, don't...go...anywhere.

STEVE: Fine, Dad.

Robin laughs. Dustin rolls his eyes, sneaking to the other side of the cinema. Erica follows.

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): The appropriate question is: "When the hell are they?"

Robin continues laughing. Steve goes to put a piece of popcorn in his mouth but stops, enthralled by the movie. Robin reaches her hand into the popcorn box while he's not looking.

DOC BROWN (CONT'D)(ON SCREEN): You see, Einstein has just become the world's first time traveller!

Dustin and Erica make their way to two seats on the edge of the front row on the other side of the cinema, ducking down.

DUSTIN: Sorry. Sorry.

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): I sent him...into the future!

Dustin sighs as he and Erica sits down.

DUSTIN: Okay, it's official. I'm never having kids.

ERICA: What are we doing here?

DUSTIN: We're laying low. Cooling off. Like Oswald.

ERICA: Oswald was found in a theatre and shot to death.

DUSTIN: A week later.

ERICA: The point is, his plan didn't work.

DUSTIN: Only because it was a setup.

ERICA: What?

DUSTIN: He was just a patsy.

ERICA: Tell me you're joking.

WOMAN: Shh!

DUSTIN and ERICA (IN UNISON): Shhhhhh!

ERICA: We need to get outta here.

Dustin leans forward slightly to look at Steve and Robin.

DUSTIN: All right, you watch Tweedledee and Tweedledum. Make sure they don't go anywhere.

ERICA: Where are you going?

Dustin unzips a pocket in Erica's bag and pulls out his Supercomm.

DUSTIN: To find us a ride.

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): Look out!

Dustin makes his way up the stairs to leave the cinema. Erica leans forward to look at Steve and Robin.

MARTY MCFLY (ON SCREEN): Doc...

ROBIN: What's happening?

STEVE: I have no idea.

MARTY MCFLY (ON SCREEN): Are you telling me that you built a time machine...

EXT. ILLINOIS ROAD – NIGHT

Todd's car drives along.

INT. TODD'S CAR

Hopper drives. Joyce sits in the passenger seat. Murray and Alexei sit in the back. Alexei points to a hand drawn map of the base under Starcourt Mall, talking to Murray in Russian.

HOPPER: What's he saying?

MURRAY: He's showing me the location of the key to turn off the machine.

Alexei speaks Russian.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Sorry, 'keys'. Two keys.

Alexei speaks Russian.

HOPPER: Two-man rule.

JOYCE: Two-man rule?

HOPPER: Yeah, two men, two keys, like a...nuclear launch.

MURRAY: But, uh, to retrieve the keys, there is a vault.

Alexei speaks Russian.

MURRAY (CONT'D): And to open the vault, you need to enter Planck's constant.

HOPPER: Planck's what?

MURRAY: Planck's constant. It's a very famous number.

JOYCE: All right, so we get the keys, and then we turn the machine off.

MURRAY: That's what he says.

JOYCE: All right, well, that shouldn't be too hard. We can do this.

HOPPER: Joyce, did you hear about the part where he said the place was like an impenetrable fortress?

JOYCE: Yeah, but there has to be a way in.

HOPPER: Yeah, there is. Our military.

JOYCE: Who are coming.

HOPPER: Well, we don't know that anymore because you yelled at them like it was a parent-teacher conference, and then you hung up on them, so we don't know what the hell's going on, because now we're...wait, wait, what are we do...oh! Wait, that's right! We're on our way to rescue our children from the big, bad Fourth of July celebration!

JOYCE: You know what, if you can't handle this, then just turn around and drop me off first.

HOPPER: What are you gonna do? You gonna walk back to Hawkins?

JOYCE: I will do anything if it gets me away from you!

MURRAY: Children! Children! Children!

Murray leans forward so that his head is hovering over the centre console.

MURRAY (CONT'D): This interminable bickering was amusing at first, but it's getting very stale and we've still got a long drive ahead of us. So, why don't you two cut the horseshit and get to the part where you admit your sexual feelings for one another?

HOPPER: Whoa!

JOYCE: You are way off base, buddy!

MURRAY: Oh, spare me, spare me, spare me! Yes, yes, he's a brute. I know. Probably reminds you of a bad relationship, and, gosh, you'd really like a nice man to settle down with, but, admit it, you're real curious to know what he's like in the sack.

Joyce looks at him in disbelief. Murray turns his attention to Hopper.

MURRAY (CONT'D): And you. Ha! Well, you're just a big manbaby who'd rather act tough than show his true feelings, because the last time you opened your heart, you got hurt. Owie. And now, rather than admit these feelings, you're dancing around one another with this mind-numbing and frankly boorish mating ritual. So, please, for my sake, either quit your bickering, or pull over, tear off those clothes, and get it over with already!

Joyce and Hopper are silent, shocked at Murray's outburst. Hopper stares at the road ahead, eyes wide and mouth agape. Joyce's mouth hangs open in disbelief. Murray leans back into the seat, letting out a deep sigh.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) What was that?

MURRAY: (in Russian) I told them they should have sex.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) They have not had sex?

MURRAY: (in Russian) No.

Alexei snickers, making Murray chuckle. They both started laughing, making comments to each other in Russian before laughing again. Hopper and Joyce look forward, uncomfortable.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Oh! Oh!

Murray and Alexei continue laughing as the car drives past a 'WELCOME TO INDIANA' sign.

EXT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

The Wheeler car drives towards it, tires squealing as it does a 180 turn and parks.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

A rock is thrown through one of the glass doors, shattering it. Nancy walks in and heads straight to the first aid aisle, followed closely by Jonathan. Mike and Max help Eleven inside, who groans. Lucas and Will walk in after.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Nancy looks along the shelves as she walks through the first aid aisle, before stopping and grabbing a bottle of rubbing alcohol and a box of gauzes. She turns to the others.

NANCY: Okay, get her down.

Mike and Max help Eleven to the floor, leaning her against the other side of the aisle. Mike, Max, Nancy, and Jonathan kneel around her. Will and Lucas stand back.

NANCY (CONT'D): Okay. Lemme see.

Nancy gently pushes up Eleven's pant leg, revealing the wound on her shin. It oozes blood, which has already stained her leg and sock.

MAX: Oh, shit.

Eleven groans. Nancy grabs out a gauze pack and starts to open it. Max grabs her wrist.

MAX (CONT'D): What...what...hey, what are you doing?

NANCY: I'm cleaning the wound.

MAX: No, first, we need to stop the bleeding, then clean, then disinfect, then bandage.

Nancy looks at her with wide eyes.

MAX (CONT'D): I skateboard. Trust me.

Max holds a gauze on the wound.

MAX (CONT'D): Mike, hold this.

Mike reluctantly reaches over to hold the gauze. Max grabs his hand and puts it in place. Eleven groans in pain, clutching Mike's hand tightly.

MAX (CONT'D): Keep the pressure on it, nice and firm, okay?

Max looks at Nancy and Jonathan.

MAX (CONT'D): We're gonna need water, soap.

NANCY: Yeah, okay.

JONATHAN: All right.

Nancy and Jonathan stand up and walk away to go searching. Behind Max, Lucas pulls his backpack off and dumps its contents out on the floor. Max turns around at the noise, looking at the stuff in confusion before looking up at Lucas.

LUCAS: Does any of this help?

MAX: No. Go get me a washcloth and a bowl.

LUCAS: A bowl?

MAX: Lucas.

Will taps Lucas, giving him a 'come on' look as he turns to go searching.

MAX (CONT'D): Go.

LUCAS: O-okay.

Lucas and Will turn and leave the aisle to go searching. Max turns back to Eleven, who groans in pain.

NANCY (O.S.): What did that thing look like to you?

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Nancy and Jonathan walk along an aisle.

JONATHAN: Like that thing in the hospital, only bigger.

NANCY: Yeah, a lot bigger. Like, Tom and Bruce, they merged to become one, right? And...and Driscoll kept saying how she needed to go back to the source-

Jonathan grabs Nancy's hand, stopping her.

JONATHAN: Wait, you think Driscoll's in there?

NANCY: Maybe. And...and...and maybe Heather and Janet, too, and God knows who else. I don't know how we're going to kill this thing, but if we do-

JONATHAN: We kill all the Flayed.

NANCY: And...we end this. Maybe.

Nancy starts walking again.

NANCY (CONT'D): All I know is...we need El.

Nancy grabs a bottle off a shelf.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Lucas and Will walk along the cereal aisle.

LUCAS: Bowl...bowl...bowl...why wouldn't it be with the cereal?

WILL: I don't know.

LUCAS: What else do you use a bowl for?

WILL: I-I don't know.

Lucas sighs as they reach the end of the aisle. He stops dead in his tracks when he sees the fireworks stand, shocked.

LUCAS: Oh, shit.

Lucas and Will share a look before walking over to it.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Satan's Baby.

Lucas grabs the Satan's Baby firework box from its place in the middle of the stand.

LUCAS (CONT'D): You ever shot one of these suckers?

WILL: No. Is it sweet?

LUCAS: That's an understatement.

MAX (O.S.): That doesn't look like a bowl.

Lucas and Will look to see Max walking towards them.

LUCAS: Nah, it's way better. There is a reason this warning label says '18 or older'.

Max crossed her arms.

LUCAS (CONT'D): This sucker is filled with 150 grains of black powder. AKA gunpowder.

Lucas tosses the box to Max.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Strap two of these together, and it's bigger than an M-80. Five of them, we've got ourselves a stick of dynamite.

MAX: You wanna kill that thing with fireworks?

LUCAS: Do you have a better idea?

MAX: Uh, yeah. Eleven.

Max tosses the box back to Lucas.

LUCAS: Against that thing? She's gonna need some backup.

Max rolls her eyes and turns to walk away.

MAX: Oh, my God.

Lucas scoffs. He hands the box to Will.

LUCAS: Hold this.

Lucas gras boxes of fireworks from the stand and starts stacking them on top of the Satan's Baby box.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Mike and Eleven sit on the ground in the first aid aisle. Mike maintains pressure on Eleven's leg. He lifts the gauze briefly to check on the wound, groaning, before he goes back to holding it on.

MIKE: Does that hurt?

ELEVEN: Uh, not bad.

MIKE: You're gonna have an awesome scar. You'll look even more badass.

ELEVEN: Bitchin.

MIKE: Yeah, bitchin.

The pair chuckle.

MIKE (CONT'D): El...

ELEVEN: Yeah?

MIKE: I've been meaning to tell you something. It's just, being broken up, it's been hard.

There's distorted radio chatter from Lucas' Supercomm. The pair glance at it before looking back at each other.

MIKE (CONT'D): And...I like that you and Max are friends now. It's just, I was jealous at first, and...and angry. And that's why I said all that stupid stuff. And it's like I wanted you all to myself. And now I realise how unfair that is. And selfish. And, like...I'm sorry. I just, like, I've never felt like this, you know, with anyone before...and...

Mike sighs.

MIKE (CONT'D): You know, they do say it makes you crazy.

ELEVEN: What makes you crazy?

MIKE: You never...you never heard that term...you know, like the phrase, like... 'blank makes you crazy', like the word...

ELEVEN: 'Girlfriends'?

MIKE: No, no, no, no, not...not girlfriends.

ELEVEN: 'Boyfriends'.

MIKE: No! No, no, not boyfriends either. It's like...it's like a feeling, or...

ELEVEN: (softly) A feeling...

MIKE: Yeah, like something...like, old people say it to each other sometimes.

ELEVEN: Old people?

MIKE: Yeah. What I wanna say is...that I just...I know that I...

There's more distorted radio chatter from Lucas' Supercomm. This time, it's a bit more discernible as Dustin, although garbled. The pair look at it.

DUSTIN (ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) I repeat...I repeat...

Mike quickly scoots over to the Supercomm, picking it up.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) This is a code red!

Mike extends the antenna.

MIKE: Dustin?

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Mike?

MIKE (ON SUPERCOMM): Dustin!

DUSTIN: Mike!

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): Oh, my God, you have to listen. I know I've been MIA...

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D): And I'm sorry, it's not because I'm mad. I mean, I actually was mad, but it's also because I was trapped underground in a secret Russian base.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Everything Dustin says comes through as garbled radio chatter.

MIKE: Dustin, you're going way too fast. I can't understand you.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: I know this sounds insane, but the Russians have infiltrated Hawkins! The goddamn Russians!

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(ON SUPERCOMM): And now...they're using...to open the Gate.

MIKE: Dustin, you're...you're breaking up.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: And now they're after us and we don't have a way out of here, so I need you to come and get us. Can Nancy drive?

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Everything Dustin says comes through as garbled radio chatter.

MIKE: Dustin, you're cutting out.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Mike?

MIKE (ON SUPERCOMM): (staticky) Dustin, you there?

DUSTIN: Mike? Mike, do you copy?

MIKE (ON SUPERCOMM): Dustin-

Dustin presses the battery test button on his Supercomm, and it makes a powering down noise.

DUSTIN: Shit! Not now. Please, not now. Mike!

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

MIKE: Dustin!

INT. STAR CINEMAS – PROJECTOR ROOM – NIGHT

DUSTIN: Mike!

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Static hisses from the Supercomm. Nancy and Jonathan appear at the end of the aisle.

NANCY: What is it?

Mike turns to look at them.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – CINEMA – NIGHT

Dustin runs down the stairs and sits in the spare seat next to Erica.

DUSTIN: Do you have any batteries? Double-A?

ERICA: Why would I have batteries?

DUSTIN: I always carry batteries.

ERICA: Then what's the problem?

DUSTIN: I need eight.

ERICA: Eight?

DUSTIN: Shit. Guess we'll have to go to plan B.

ERICA: Plan B? What's plan B?

Dustin briefly looks past Erica to look at Steve and Robin. He leans forward to get a better view, his expression changing. Noticing Dustin's expression, Erica leans forward to look as well. Steve and Robin are gone.

DUSTIN: Where...are they?

Erica looks at Dustin, eyes wide.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – FOYER – NIGHT

Steve leans against the wall, slumped over the water fountain as he drinks from it. Robin leans against the wall next to him.

STEVE: That's amazing.

ROBIN: So, like, I wasn't totally focused in there or anything, but...I'm pretty sure...that mum was trying to bang her son.

STEVE: Wait, wait, the hot chick was Alex P. Keaton's mum?

ROBIN: Yeah, I'm pretty sure.

STEVE: But they're the same age.

ROBIN: No, but he went back in time.

STEVE: Then why is it called Back to the Future?

ROBIN: He has to go back to the future because he's in the past. So, the future is actually the present, which is his time.

Steve makes a face that looks as if he gets it, but it turns back to confusion.

STEVE: Wh-what?

ROBIN: No, no, it's my turn.

Robin pushes Steve away from the water fountain.

ROBIN (CONT'D): You've had enough.

Robin starts to drink from the water fountain. Steve walks to stand in the centre of the walkway, mouth agape as he stares at the ceiling.

STEVE: (echoing) Wow.

As Steve stares at the ceiling, the lights begin to stretch and dance around.

STEVE (CONT'D): (echoing) Hey, Robin. You gotta check this out.

Robin takes a big gulp from the water fountain before walking over, staring at the ceiling. She grunts.

STEVE (CONT'D): (echoing) Check this...this...the ceiling, it's beautiful.

The lights start to double and triple, still stretching and dancing.

ROBIN: (echoing) Oh, wow.

Robin chuckles as she turns in a circle, still staring at the ceiling.

ROBIN (CONT'D): (echoing) Oh.

Robin chuckles. She wobbles a bit as she comes to a standstill. She grunts. Steve grunts. They both grunt and groan as the lights continue to dance, the two of them swaying ever so slightly.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BATHROOM – NIGHT

Robin pushes the door open and runs for a toilet, followed quickly by Steve. They both kneel over the toilets as they vomit.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Children laugh and cheer as they ride the rides.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Todd's car pulls into an empty parking spot, with Hopper turning off the car while Joyce hops out. When Murray goes to get out of the car, Hopper pulls him back into the seat.

HOPPER: Stay here, go over the plans with Smirnoff.

Hopper gets out of the car.

MURRAY: I can help look.

HOPPER: No, you'll scare the children.

Hopper slams the door and begins to follow Joyce as she heads to the fair.

MURRAY: Jim, if this is about earlier-

HOPPER: Stay put, Freud! You hear me? Stay put!

Murray sighs.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Kids laugh and cheer as they ride the rides. Hopper and Joyce walk through the fairgrounds.

HOPPER (CONT'D): You know, say what you will about Kline, he certainly knows how to throw a party. I'm sorry about him, by the way.

JOYCE: Who, Larry?

HOPPER: No, Murray. He's a sick individual who likes to get under people's skin. So, let's not let him, you know, get under our skin.

JOYCE: I'm not, I haven't.

HOPPER: I just, you seem a little more quiet than usual.

JOYCE: I just...I just wanna find the kids.

HOPPER: Yeah, yeah, yeah.

KLINE (O.S.): I'll give it my best shot.

Hopper and Joyce walk past the High Striker, where Kline has just hit the bell. He lets out a yell and the crowd cheers.

MAN: You won yourself a bear!

The man hands Kline a bear.

KLINE: Thank you.

Kline turns around and hands the bear to one of the fair girls.

KLINE (CONT'D): Here you go.

A photographer moves to take a photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER: Mayor Kline.

Kline slings his arms over the shoulders of the fair girls, all of them smiling. The photographer takes a photo.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D): One more, one more.

Kline's eyes flick behind the photographer, and he spots Joyce and Hopper walking away from him.

PHOTOGRAPHER (CONT'D): Big smile. There we go.

Kline's smile completely disappears, making way for a scowl.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Kline sprints through the fairgrounds to the parking area, running into a man as he passes.

KLINE: Watch it!

MAN 2: Happy Fourth, dick!

Kline reaches into his car and pulls out his phone, dialling a number as quickly as he can. He holds the phone to his ear as the line rings, panting.

KLINE: Come on, come on, come on! Pick up, pick up, pick up, you commie bastards!

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Eleven sits on the floor in front of the freezers, an American flag tied around her head as a bandana. Blood runs from her nose. The freezer doors are open, providing white noise as they hum. Max and Lucas lean against one fruit stand while Nancy and Jonathan lean against another. Mike and Will sit on the edge of a fridge. All six of them watch Eleven. Lucas opens the pull-tab on a can of new coke, the can opening loudly.

MAX: (whispers) Quiet.

LUCAS: (whispers) Oh, sorry.

Lucas takes a sip from the can.

MIKE: How do you even drink that?

LUCAS: Because it's delicious.

MIKE and MAX (IN UNISON): What?

LUCAS: It's like Carpenter's The Thing. The original is a classic, no question about it. But the remake...

Lucas takes a long, loud slurp from the can. He lets out a satisfied sigh, smacking his lips.

LUCAS (CONT'D): Sweeter, bolder...better.

MIKE: You're insane.

LUCAS: So, you prefer the original Thing?

MIKE: What? No, I'm not talking about The Thing, I'm talking about New Coke.

LUCAS: It's the same concept, dude.

MIKE: Uh, actually, it's not the same concept.

LUCAS: It is the same concept.

MIKE: No, it's not.

LUCAS: (loudly) Yes, it is.

Eleven rips the blindfold off.

ELEVEN: Hey.

Lucas and Mike look at her.

MIKE: Sorry.

LUCAS: Sorry.

MIKE: Did you...find him?

Eleven sighs.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Lucas pushes a trolley full of fireworks towards the front door. Max walks beside him. Will, Mike, and Eleven walk behind him, with Mike helping Eleven walk. Nancy and Jonathan walk behind them, with Jonathan carrying a box of fireworks.

LUCAS: The movies? Dustin's so freaked out about the Gate, he decides to go to watch a movie? Yeah, makes total sense.

MAX: You're positive he said 'Gate' and not 'great'?

WILL: Yeah, like, 'this movie I'm watching is great'.

ELEVEN: Sounded like 'Gate'.

MIKE: Which would explain how the Mind Flayer's still alive.

NANCY: Yeah, we just have to shut it again.

WILL: Then the monster dies.

MAX: But if not, we always have Lucas' fireworks.

Max helps Lucas lift the trolley through the door frame.

LUCAS: Keep mocking my plan, Max. Keep mocking it. I wanna hear you say it again, because you keep doubting me. You keep doubting me!

The camera pans away from the group as they walk through the door frame.

MAX (O.S.): Ridiculous.

LUCAS (O.S.): Will? We're gonna prove 'em wrong, right?

The camera lands on the first aid aisle, where the group left everything used to treat Eleven on the floor – bloody gauzes, open blood packets, a bowl full of water. There are patches of blood on the ground. A bigger patch of blood starts to bubble and grow smaller, screeching.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – BATHROOM – NIGHT

Steve flushes the toilet before leaning against the corner of the stall. In her stall, Robin is lying on her back with her legs resting on the door. Steve groans.

ROBIN: The ceiling stopped spinning for me. Is it still spinning for you?

Steve looks up at the ceiling.

STEVE: Holy shit. No. You think we puked it all up?

ROBIN: Maybe. Ask me something. (in Russian accent) Interrogate me.

Steve chuckles.

STEVE: Okay. Interrogate you. Sure. Um...when was the last time you, uh, peed your pants?

ROBIN: Today.

STEVE: What?

ROBIN: When the Russian doctor took out the bone saw.

Steve and Robin laugh.

STEVE: Oh, my God.

ROBIN: It was just a little bit, though.

STEVE: Yeah, it's definitely still in her system.

Robin pulls herself up to be leaning against the wall, laughing. She puts her foot against the divider between her stall and Steve's.

ROBIN: Oh...all right, my turn.

STEVE: Okay. Hit me.

ROBIN: Have you...ever been in love?

STEVE: Yep. Nancy Wheeler. First semester, senior year.

Steve imitates a gunshot before chuckling.

ROBIN: Oh, my God. She's such a priss.

STEVE: Hmm. Turns out, not really.

Robin scoffs.

ROBIN: Are you still in love with Nancy?

Steve thinks about it for a moment before shaking his head.

STEVE: No.

ROBIN: Why not?

STEVE: I think it's because I found someone who's a little bit better for me.

Robin looks as though she has an inkling of who Steve is talking about, and she doesn't seem to like it. Steve chuckles.

STEVE (CONT'D): It's crazy. Ever since Dustin got home, he's been saying, 'you know, you gotta find your Suzie. You gotta find your Suzie'.

ROBIN: Wait, who's Suzie?

STEVE: It's some girl from camp, I guess his girlfriend. To be honest with you, I'm not 100% sure she's even real. But that's not...that's not really the point. That doesn't matter. The point is, this girl, you know, the one that I like, it's somebody that I...didn't even talk to in school.

Robin looks uncomfortable.

STEVE (CONT'D): And I don't even know why. Maybe cause Tommy H would've made fun of me, or...I wouldn't be...prom king. It's stupid. I mean, Dustin's right, it's all just a bunch of bullshit anyways. Because, when I think about it, I should've been hanging out with this girl the whole time. First of all, she's hilarious. She's so funny. I feel like this summer, I have laughed harder than I have ever laughed...in a really long time.

Robin smiles widely before it disappears, replaced with a pained expression.

STEVE (CONT'D): And she's smart. Way smarter than me. You know, she can crack, like, top secret Russian codes and...you know? She's honestly unlike anyone I've ever even met before.

Robin pulls her legs to her chest, resting her head on her arms.

STEVE (CONT'D): Robin?

Steve taps on the divider between stalls. Robin lifts her head but doesn't say anything, looking uncomfortable.

STEVE (CONT'D): Robin, did you just OD in there?

ROBIN: No.

Robin sighs.

ROBIN (CONT'D): I...

Robin leans back against the wall, putting her foot against the stall divider.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Am still alive.

Robin sighs deeply. Steve thinks for a moment before sliding under the stall divider, pulling himself into Robin's stall before leaning against the door and putting his foot against the wall next to Robin.

ROBIN (CONT'D): The floor's disgusting.

STEVE: Yeah, well, I already got a bunch of blood and puke on my shit, so....what do you think?

ROBIN: About?

STEVE: This girl.

ROBIN: She sounds awesome.

STEVE: She is awesome. And what about the guy?

ROBIN: I think he's on drugs and he's not thinking straight.

STEVE: Really? Cause I think he's thinking a lot more clearly than usual.

ROBIN: He's not. Look...he doesn't even know this girl. And if he did know her, like...like really know her, I don't think he'd even want to be her friend.

STEVE: No, that's not true. No way is that true.

ROBIN: Listen to me, Steve. It's shocked me to my core, but I like you. I really like you. But I'm not like your other friends. And I'm not like Nancy Wheeler.

STEVE: Robin, that's exactly why I like you.

Robin scoffs.

ROBIN: Do you remember what I said about Click's class? About me being jealous and, like, obsessed?

Steve nods.

STEVE: Yeah.

ROBIN: It isn't because I had a crush on you. It's because...she wouldn't stop staring at you.

Steve looks confused.

STEVE: Mrs. Click?

Robin chuckles.

ROBIN: Tammy Thompson.

Steve still looks confused.

ROBIN (CONT'D): I wanted her to look at me. But...she couldn't pull her eyes away from you and your stupid hair. And I didn't understand, because you would get bagel crumbs all over the floor. And you asked dumb questions. And you were a douchebag. And...and you didn't even like her and...I would go home...and just scream into my pillow.

STEVE: But Tammy Thompson's a girl.

ROBIN: (softly) Steve.

STEVE: Yeah?

Robin tries to tell him with her expression. Steve takes a moment to get it.

STEVE (CONT'D): Oh.

ROBIN: Oh.

STEVE: Holy shit.

ROBIN: Yeah. Holy shit.

The pair sit in silence for a few moments.

ROBIN (CONT'D): Steve...did you OD over there?

STEVE: No, I just, uh...just thinking.

ROBIN: Okay.

STEVE: I mean, yeah. Tammy Thompson, you know, she's cute and all, but...I mean, she's a total dud.

ROBIN: She is not.

STEVE: Yes, she is. She wants to be, like, a singer. She wants to move to Nashville and shit.

ROBIN: She has dreams.

STEVE: She can't even hold a tune. She's practically tone-deaf. Have you heard her?

Robin chuckles.

STEVE (CONT'D): All the time. (singing atonally) You see me now tonight...

Robin laughs.

ROBIN: Shut up.

STEVE: (singing atonally) You see me more...

ROBIN: She does not sound like that.

STEVE: She sounds exactly...that's a great impersonation of her.

ROBIN: No, she does not sound like that. You sound like a Muppet.

STEVE: She sounds like a Muppet. She sounds like a Muppet giving birth.

Steve and Robin both laugh.

STEVE (CONT'D): (singing like Kermit the Frog) And if you could hold me tight...

STEVE and ROBIN (IN UNISON): (singing atonally) We'll be holding on forever...

STEVE: Exactly!

Robin laughs.

ROBIN: I know.

Steve and Robin laugh. The bathroom door suddenly opens and Dustin walks in, followed by Erica. They stare down at the older pair.

DUSTIN: Okay. What the hell?

Steve and Robin share a glance before bursting into laughter again.

INT. BRADLEY'S BIG BUY – NIGHT

Billy steps through the door frame, taking a few steps on the broken glass before stopping. He looks around, then heads for the first aid aisle. The lights flicker. Billy spots the things left behind by the group and walks towards them. He kneels down beside the bubbling spot of blood, touching it with two fingers before bringing his hand close to his face. The camera close-ups on Billy's eye. His pupil dilates. Black tendrils snake in his eye.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Children laugh and cheer as they ride the rides.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Murray and Alexei sit on the back of the car faced towards the fair.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) And why all this? If I just turn the keys, it's like turning off a car. But the car still works, does it not?

MURRAY: (in Russian) Yes.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) And do you want the car to still work or do you want it to explode?

MURRAY: (in Russian) I want the car to explode.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) Good. Then do this. Just make sure you are nowhere near it when it does. It is not pretty. Turns people into dust. And then...

MURRAY: (in Russian) It's over.

Alexei nods. Murray chuckles.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) And then I become an American citizen and join in the fun, yes?

Alexei looks towards the fair. Murray puts his hand on Alexei's shoulder.

MURRAY: (in Russian) Who said you had to be American to join the fun?

Murray and Alexei smile.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Murray and Alexei walk through Sideshow Alley. A man dressed as Uncle Sam on stilts walks past the. Alexei smiles.

MURRAY (CONT'D): (in Russian) It doesn't get more American than this, my friend. Fatty foods, ugly decadence, rigged games...

Murray walks up to the tickets stand.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Fifteen tickets, please.

Alexei leans against the tickets stand as Murray deals with the worker, looking around at all the games. A boy knocks down a pyramid of bottles at the bottle toss, making the crowd around him cheer.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) They are rigged, these games?

MURRAY: (in Russian) Yes.

A balloon pops, making Alexei look towards the balloon popping stand.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) They do not look rigged.

MURRAY: (in Russian) That's just it, my dear Alexei. They have been designed to present the illusion of fairness! But it's all a scam, a trick, to put your money in the rich man's pocket. That, my dear friend, is...America.

Murray holds up a strip of tickets to Alexei, who takes them.

MURRAY (CONT'D): (in Russian) But, hey...knock yourself out.

Murray walks past Alexei.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) Where are you going?

Murray turns around.

MURRAY: (in Russian) To get us the closest thing to food I can find.

Murray walks off, leaving Alexei alone. He looks at the strip of tickets before he starts walking, smiling as he looks around to find the game to go to first.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

The camera pans to Joyce and Hopper, who are walking on the other side of Sideshow Alley in the other direction. Joyce catches sight of the Wheelers going into the Gavitron, and she grabs Hopper's arm.

JOYCE: Hey. Hey. Karen.

Joyce and Hopper walk towards the ride.

CARNIVAL BARKER: Step right up!

INT. FUN FAIR – GAVITRON – NIGHT

Ridegoers make their ways to spots on the ride while the previous ridegoers get off.

KAREN (O.S.): ...feel the wind push you back and it's gonna...

Joyce and Hopper walk onto the ride, looking for the Wheelers.

TED (O.S.): Hold on. Do we have seat belts?

JOYCE: Hey, Karen.

KAREN: Joyce! Oh, my gosh! How funny to see you here!

JOYCE: Where are the kids?

KAREN: I...I haven't seen them. I don't think they're here yet.

RIDE WORKER: You three, up against the wall!

HOPPER: No, where are they?

KAREN: Oh, my gosh, I can hardly keep track these days. Uh, they were at, uh...Dustin's, then Lucas', then Max's.

HOPPER: Max...

KAREN: You know how it is. Summer!

An alarm blares.

TED: Probably getting into some kinda trouble.

The ride door makes a whirring sound as it closes.

RIDE WORKER: Last warning, you two. Up against the wall!

HOPPER: Hold the ride!

RIDE WORKER: On your life, Magnum.

The ride worker pulls the handle and the ride starts. Hopper and Joyce quickly throw themselves against the walls, with Hopper looking like he wants to get out of there. Karen looks excited. Ted closes his eyes, groaning.

KAREN: Whoo! Here we go!

TED: Holy smokes!

Joyce squeezes her eyes shut as the ride gains speed.

TED (CONT'D): Holy smokes!

Joyce and Hopper look at each other. They grab hands.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – CINEMA – NIGHT

The audience is watching the end of Back to the Future.

DOC BROWN (ON SCREEN): Roads? Where we're going, we don't need roads.

When the movie finishes, the audience claps and cheers.

INT. STAR CINEMAS – FOYER – NIGHT

Moviegoers filter out of the cinemas, chatting among themselves about the events of the movie. Dustin slowly opens the door of the bathroom and peeks out, watching the moviegoers. Erica, Steve, and Robin poke their heads out to watch as well.

DUSTIN: And...blend.

Dustin opens the door fully and the group walks out, trying to blend in with the moviegoers leaving the cinemas.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – HALLWAY – NIGHT

WOMAN: It is so good!

ERICA: Well, shit, that worked.

DUSTIN: Course it worked. Now we just have to get on the bus with the rest of these plebes, and home sweet home, here we come.

STEVE: Uh, Dustin?

DUSTIN: What?

STEVE: Yeah, we might not wanna go to your house.

DUSTIN: Why?

STEVE: Well, I might've told them your full name.

DUSTIN: What is wrong with you?

STEVE: Dude, I was drugged.

DUSTIN: So?

STEVE: So?

DUSTIN: So, you resist. You tough it out. You tough it out like a man.

STEVE: Oh, yeah, it's easy for you to say.

ROBIN: Guys?

The group stops short when they see the Russian guards from before checking the bags of moviegoers as they leave.

RUSSIAN GUARD: Sorry for the inconvenience. Have a pleasant evening.

DUSTIN: Abort.

One of the Russian guards turns his head and spots them.

DUSTIN (CONT'D): Abort. Abort.

The group turns around and makes a beeline for the escalators, but they're blocked off.

STEVE: Shit.

ROBIN: Okay.

Steve turns around to look for the guards and sees them walking towards them.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – ESCALATORS – NIGHT

Robin slides down the gap between the escalators, followed by Steve, then Dustin, then Erica.

STEVE: Come on, let's go, let's go.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

A dart pops a balloon, making the crowd cheer. The game worker grabs the dart from the board.

GAME WORKER: That's three green! And here's dart number four!

The game worker hands the dart to Alexei, who is smiling. He takes aim then fires, hitting another green balloon. The kids surrounding him cheer. Alexei high fives one of them.

GAME WORKER (CONT'D): One more for the big prize!

The game worker hands the dart to Alexei.

KID: You can do it, mister!

Alexei takes aim. The game worker and the kids watch him in anticipation. Alexei fires, hitting another green balloon. A bell rings and the kids cheer. Alexei realises that he's won and puts his hands in the air, jumping up and down. He high fives a few of the kids.

GAME WORKER: We have a winner!

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Alexei walks through the fairgrounds, a Woody Woodpecker plush under his arm and a giant smile on his face.

CARNIVAL BARKER: Step right up, ladies and gentlemen! Get your tickets right here!

Alexei spots Murray at a food stand, holding two corndogs.

ALEXEI: Murray!

Murray turns to look and spots Alexei.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) Look! It's not rigged!

MURRAY: Ah!

Murray laughs like Woody Woodpecker.

ALEXEI: (in Russian) It's not rigged.

Murray laughs heartily. As Alexei continues to walk towards Murray, Grigori comes out of the crowd, holding a gun. Alexei spots him and he stops walking, his smile fading. Grigori holds the gun up.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

A girl throws a dart and hits a balloon at the balloon stand.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

The gunshot is silenced. Alexei's body jolts as he's shot. Grigori walks past him.

GRIGORI: (in Russian) Traitor.

Alexei slowly drops the Woody Woodpecker plush, revealing a blooming blood stain in the centre of his chest. Murray's smile instantly fades.

MURRAY: Alexei!

Murray runs towards Alexei, dropping the corndogs. Alexei touches his gunshot wound before staring at his bloody hand, staggering. As he turns around, everything is blurry and distorted.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Alexei!

Murray grabs under Alexei's arm, helping him stay standing. He touches the gunshot wound before staring at the blood on his hand.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Oh, no. Oh, my God. Let's go.

Murray puts his hand back on the gunshot wound and helps Alexei walk.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Murray helps Alexei into a darkened space between stalls. Alexei coughs and grunts. Alexei falls against one of the stalls, and Murray helps him slide to the ground.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Easy.

Alexei groans. Murray pulls off his over shirt and holds it against the gunshot wound.

MURRAY (CONT'D): (in Russian) Keep pressure on it. I'll get you help. I'll get help.

Murray runs off, leaving Alexei behind.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Murray moves through the crowd, desperately looking for Joyce and Hopper. He spots them getting off the Gavitron.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Jim...Jim. Jim!

Murray waves his hands.

MURRAY (CONT'D): They got Alexei, Jim!

Hopper and Joyce stare at Murray in confusion.

MURRAY (CONT'D): Jim! Alexei! They got Alexei, Jim!

Hopper exhales sharply, looking around. He spots Grigori walking towards him.

HOPPER: We gotta go. We gotta go.

JOYCE: What?

Hopper grabs Joyce's hand and the pair start running away from Grigori. Karen stares after them in confusion as she, Holly, and Ted get off the Gavitron.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Hopper and Joyce sprint through the crowd.

HOPPER: Let's go.

Hopper stops when he sees another Russian agent walking towards them. Hopper looks around before pulling Joyce into a gap between stalls.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

The Wheelers watch Joyce and Hopper.

KAREN: They make an odd couple, don't they?

TED: Well, it's like they say, there's someone for everyone.

Karen looks at Ted and sighs.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Joyce and Hopper run through the stalls. At one point they run through the middle of the bottle toss, having to duck while the crowd exclaims. They stop when Hopper spots another Russian agent walking towards them.

VENDOR: Who wants a hot dog?

Hopper turns to Joyce.

HOPPER: Find Murray, get the car, bring it around back.

Hopper hands the keys to Joyce.

JOYCE: Okay.

Joyce runs off. Hopper runs towards the funhouse. The agent runs after him.

RUSSIAN AGENT: (in Russian) Heading to 'Big Top'. Northeast side of the fair.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Hopper climbs up the ladder to get to the second floor.

CARNIVAL BARKER: Step right up, ladies and gentlemen! Get your tickets to the Big Top here!

Hopper navigates the slight maze of the walkway.

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D): ...this side of the Mississippi.

A parent and their kids walk onto the second floor from inside.

HOPPER: Hey! Get your kids outta here! Police!

The trio start running.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Get em out of here! Go!

Hopper climbs over the barrier between walkways.

CARNIVAL BARKER: You sir! Step on up! I see you eyeing the maze!

Hopper disappears inside the funhouse. The Russian agent climbs up the side.

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D): Don't be surprised! Don't be scared!

The Russian agent makes his way over the barriers to get to the entrance Hopper went in.

CARNIVAL BARKER (CONT'D): Step on up, sir!

The Russian agent presses against the wall beside the entrance, taking his gun out. There's a recording of cackling laughter.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

The Russian agent pushes the plastic flaps aside and slowly makes his way inside the cylinder room.

EERIE MALE VOICE (ON SPEAKER): Do you dare enter the cave of horrors?

The Russian agents look around the cylinder room. Punching bags hang from the ceiling, swaying. He slowly makes his way through the room, pushing the bags aside.

EERIE MALE VOICE (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKER): You never know what you might find around the corner.

There's a recording of eerie giggling.

EERIE MALE VOICE (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKER): Don't show your fear in the presence of the tiger.

There's a recording of a roar.

EERIE MALE VOICE (CONT'D)(ON SPEAKER): Or you may never escape this cave alive.

There's a recording of a roar. Hopper pushes a punching bag aside, yelling as he tackles the Russian agent, his gun landing on the floor. Hopper pushes the Russian agent against the wall before punching him. The Russian agent tries to punch Hopper but is blocked, with Hopper landing another punch on him. Hopper throws the Russian agent to the ground.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Joyce runs through the crowd, looking for Murray and Alexei. Murray grabs her shoulder and spins her around, making her scream in fear. When she sees it's Murray, she lets out a sigh of relief. Murray holds her shoulders as she pants.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Murray leads Joyce to where he left Alexei. Alexei is slumped over, not moving. Joyce kneels down and shakes his shoulders.

JOYCE: Alexei!

Joyce spots the blood on Alexei's chest and Murray's over shirt. Murray kneels down.

JOYCE (CONT'D): Oh, my God.

Murray lets out a sigh of disappointment.

MURRAY: I...I just left for a minute...for a corn dog. A stupid corn dog.

Joyce covers her mouth with her hand as she lets out a few strangled cries.

JOYCE: Oh, God. Oh, no.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Hopper punches the Russian agent, sending him into a few punching bags. Hopper stalks towards him. The Russian agent goes to kick Hopper, but he grabs his leg, throwing it to the side before tackling him. The Russian agent slaps Hopper's face, who retaliates with a few punches. Hopper then knocks the Russian agent to the ground before picking him up and throwing him against a wall. The Russian agent fights back but is blocked before managing to land a punch to Hopper's face. Hopper grunts as he dodges another punch. He grabs the Russian agent's collar and headbutts him before throwing him against a wall. The Russian agent falls to the ground, groaning. Hopper picks up a fallen punching bag and slams it over the Russian agent's back as he tries to get up, knocking him unconscious.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Grigori makes his way through the crowd towards the funhouse. He heads up the ramp.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Hopper pants as he walks over and picks up the Russian agent's gun, whirling around to aim it at the entrance when indistinct radio chatter can be heard. He looks to see the Russian agent's walkie talkie on the ground nearby.

MAN (ON WALKIE TALKIE): (in Russian) Vasilev, are you there? Vasilev? Answer!

Hopper quickly grabs the walkie talkie as a man keeps speaking, making his way through the tiger's mouth. A recording of a roar sounds as he passes through.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Grigori pushes the plastic flaps aside and walks into the room, gun at the ready. There's a recording of cackling laughter. Grigori spots the Russian agent on the ground.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Joyce and Murray walk out of the entrance towards the car. Joyce spots Kline standing next to his car beside the entrance but continues walking. After a few look backs, she stops.

MURRAY: What are you doing?

Joyce turns around and starts walking towards Kline.

JOYCE: Hey! Larry.

Kline turns around.

KLINE: Joyce.

Joyce grunts as she punches Kline in the face. He wails in pain, doubling over as he holds his nose. Joyce pulls him up and kicks him in the crotch, making him groan.

KLINE (CONT'D): Ooh!

Joyce turns and walks towards Murray.

MAN: Yeah, lady!

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Grigori pushes the plastic flaps aside and walks into the hall of mirrors, looking around. The lights flicker between blue, red, and being off. He touches the mirror in front of him before he slowly starts making his way through the mirrors, looking around. He walks with his gun out in front of him, reflected in different mirrors as he goes. He catches sight of Hopper walking past the hallway and shoots at him a few times, but it's just a reflection.

HOPPER: Hey.

Hopper comes out from behind a mirror and shoots at Grigori. He jolts back each time, crashing through a mirror and landing on the ground as glass rains down on him. He slumps over. Hopper stands over him, gun trained on the Russian.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

A Russian agent pushes the plastic flaps aside and walks into the cylinder room, followed by a few other agents. They speak Russian.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Hopper hears the Russian agents in the distance.

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Hopper bursts out of an entrance, looking around. There's a recording of cackling laughter.

INT. FUN FAIR – FUN HOUSE – NIGHT

Grigori suddenly sits up, gasping for air and groaning. The Russian agents make their way through the mirrors. Grigori stands up and opens his shirt, revealing bullets in his bulletproof vest. He coughs.

RUSSIAN AGENT: (in Russian) Comrade!

The Russian agent touches Grigori's shoulder. Grigori pushes him off.

GRIGORI: (in Russian) Get off me!

EXT. FUN FAIR – NIGHT

Hopper runs to the end of the floor. There's a recording of cackling laughter. He comes to the slide and pauses, looking back to where he came from. Grigori steps out, looking around. Hopper sighs before getting into the slide, reluctantly sliding down.

HOPPER: Goddamn! Son of a bitch!

Hopper lands at the bottom with a grunt, quickly getting up and running through the door to get behind the funhouse.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hey!

Todd's car screeches to a stop on the dirt road behind the funhouse. With Joyce in the driver's seat and Murray in the passenger seat, Hopper awkwardly climbs over the door to sit in the back seat.

INT. TODD'S CAR

HOPPER (CONT'D): Hit it. Hit it! Go! Go!

Joyce takes off. Hopper looks behind them to check for the Russian agents before looking at Joyce.

HOPPER (CONT'D): Alexei?

Joyce and Murray don't say anything. Hopper sighs.

RUSSIAN AGENT (ON WALKIE TALKIE): (in Russian) On the lower level-

Hopper pulls out the Russian agent's walkie talkie and hands it to Murray as the man keeps speaking.

HOPPER: Hey, translate.

Murray reluctantly takes the walkie talkie.

RUSSIAN AGENT (ON WALKIE TALKIE): (in Russian) We've found the children. They are still in the mall. Lower level.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

RUSSIAN AGENT (CONT'D): (in Russian) Keep all entrances locked down. I repeat...keep all entrances locked down.

Russian agents walk throughout the lower level, eyes looking for the group and guns ready. One of the Russian agents spots movement behind the counter of The Great Cookie Co. He grins, reaching for his walkie talkie.

RUSSIAN AGENT (CONT'D): (quietly, in Russian) Everyone, get over here. I found them.

The camera pans away from the Russian agent and into The Great Cookie Co, where the group is hiding behind the counter. They pant, nervous. The other Russian agents move towards the one who found the group. He makes a motion to go, and the Russian agents all slowly walk towards the counter. The kids pant, scared. The Russian agents slowly walk towards the counter, guns ready. The kids pant, scared. A car alarm goes off, making them jump. The Russian agents all turn to look at the prize car, guns ready. It shakes and flashes its headlights, the car alarm still going off. The Russian agents look confused.

RUSSIAN AGENT (CONT'D): (in Russian) What the hell?

The Russian agents slowly look up to see Eleven standing at the balcony on the top floor, arm out as she uses her powers on the car. The others stand a short distance behind her. Eleven pulls her hand back and thrusts it forward, sending the car into the Russian agents. The car barrels through the Russian agents and the seating area, before crashing into the counter of New York Pizza and coming to a stop on its side. The group slowly looks up and takes in the scene with confusion. The Russian agents all lay on the floor, unconscious. The hubcap from one of the wheels spins on the floor, making a metal noise, before it lands flat. The car lays on its side against the counter of New York Pizza, steaming hissing up from its undercarriage. The group slowly looks up at the balcony, where the others join Eleven at the edge. Dustin grins.

INT. STARCOURT MALL – NIGHT

The two groups make their way to each other, with Dustin running up to Mike and Eleven as they get off the escalator. He laughs.

DUSTIN: You flung that thing like a Hot Wheel!

Erica runs up to Lucas, confused.

ERICA: Lucas?

LUCAS: What are you doing here?

ERICA: Ask them. It's their fault.

STEVE: True, yeah. Totally true. It's absolutely our fault.

ROBIN: I don't understand what happened to that car.

DUSTIN: El has superpowers.

ROBIN: I'm sorry?

STEVE: Superpowers. She threw it with her mind. Come on, catch up.

Erica points at Eleven.

ERICA: That's EI?

ROBIN: Who's EI?

NANCY: I'm sorry, who are you?

ROBIN: I'm Robin. I work with Steve.

DUSTIN: She cracked the top secret code.

STEVE: Yeah, which is how we found out about the Russians in the first place.

JONATHAN: Russians? Wait, what Russians?

STEVE: The Russians!

MAX: Those were Russians?

ERICA: Some of them.

LUCAS: What are you talking about?

DUSTIN: Didn't you hear our code red?

MIKE: Yeah. But I couldn't understand half of what you were saying.

DUSTIN: Goddamn low battery.

STEVE: How many times do I have to tell you with the low battery?

DUSTIN: Yeah, well, everything worked out, didn't it, Steve?

ERICA: Worked out? We almost died.

DUSTIN: Yeah, but we didn't, did we?

Eleven walks away from the group.

STEVE (O.S.): Yeah, but it was pretty damn close.

LUCAS (O.S.): Okay, Russians? As in, they're working for the Russian government?

Eleven pants. She looks weak.

DUSTIN (O.S.): What are you not comprehending?

Eleven looks around.

DUSTIN (CONT'D)(O.S.): Am I not speaking English? (distorted) We have a full-blown Red Dawn situation.

Eleven looks around. There's a droning sound.

MAX (O.S.): (distorted) So this has nothing to do with the Gate?

Eleven reaches up to cover her ears, grunting.

DUSTIN (O.S.): (distorted) It has everything to do with the Gate...

The droning sound gets louder and louder until...Eleven collapses with a grunt. The group turns to look at her, as if only just realising she walked away. They run over to her. Mike, Max, Erica, Jonathan, Nancy, Will, Lucas, and Dustin kneel down around her. Steve and Robin stay standing, but they rest their hands on their knees.

STEVE (O.S.): Whoa, whoa, whoa!

MIKE: Ei! Ei!

STEVE: Whoa, whoa!

Mike rolls Eleven onto her back.

ERICA: What's wrong with her?

MIKE: What's wrong? What's wrong? What's wrong?

ELEVEN: My leg. My leg.

JONATHAN: Her leg, her leg. Okay.

Jonathan pushes up Eleven's pant leg and starts to unwrap the dressing.

JONATHAN (CONT'D): Get that off.

NANCY: Okay.

Jonathan pulls the dressing off to reveal Eleven's wound. It looks disgusting. Everyone groans in disgust. Black tendrils snake away from the wound, and it suddenly looks like something is moving under the skin. Eleven grunts in pain.

MIKE: Ei! Ei!

Eleven wails in pain. Everyone looks concerned and scared.

MIKE (CONT'D): Ei! Ei, are you okay? Ei! Ei! Ei!

Eleven screams.

Cut to black.

END EPISODE.